

CONGRATULATING THE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MINNESOTA

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate the city of Plymouth, MN, for being named the "Best City in America" by the staff and writers of Money Magazine.

Because of this recognition, the country now knows what the residents of Plymouth, MN, have already known: that Plymouth is an exceptional place to live and grow, rich in culture and character.

The median household costs of single family homes in Plymouth allow families to responsibly purchase homes that are appropriate to their needs. When looking for educational or entertainment opportunities though, residents of Plymouth have access to a wide array of events at the Hilde Performance Center and other entertainment venues, as well as 40 public parks, 100 miles of trails, and half a dozen large lakes to swim, fish, and run around. With over 104 libraries within 15 miles, it is no surprise that the Plymouth public school system is ranked among the top three districts in a State renowned for education leadership. There are also 27 colleges, universities, and professional schools within a few miles of the city, exemplifying why 83 percent of Plymouth's citizens attended college.

Plymouth is not only the best city in America because of its proximity to arts, education, and the outdoors, it is also home to a healthy and thriving economy and active local government. The 50,000 jobs created in the city of Plymouth aids in independent business development, low crime rates, and allows for greater access to health care options, so critical to Plymouth's low rates of diabetes and hypertension. Plymouth's local government recently led an effort to have a "green roof" and rain gardens installed when City Hall was expanded, thereby reducing greenhouse gases and mitigating the impact of pollution through water runoff.

Acknowledging this city's many successes, today I encourage other communities to follow the lead of Plymouth, MN, and encourage business leadership, civic investment, and community cohesiveness through its commerce, government, schools, entertainment, and health care initiatives. •

TRIBUTE TO TOM J. MORRIS

• Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to take a few minutes to reflect upon the memory of Tom J. Morris, a true hero to the men and women of Louisiana. Tom died while traveling on vacation with his wife Denise in Boston last Friday morning. As an individual who shares his commitment to civil service and the State of Louisiana, I wanted to honor his truly inspiring career. For the last 19 years, Tom was the CEO for the United Way of Southwest Louisiana, Inc., in Lake Charles. In sum, he had a combined 30

years of service with the United Way and was considered a leader in the community of Lake Charles, particularly in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. As you know, United Way is a nonprofit organization dedicated to nurturing the future generations and youth of the United States. Tom Morris was a man who represented the convictions of this Nation's youth, by bringing together communities and organizations in order to solve today's dilemmas. Louisiana is still in the wake of the hurricanes, and his dedicated assistance to victims, as well as the general community, will be sorely missed. His efforts to inspire young volunteers and assist in hurricane recovery are still considered vital to the reconstruction of local communities in Louisiana. To his family and his wife Denise, I extend my condolences and my prayers. Tom Morris's efforts are truly inspirational and will always be remembered, not only by the men and women of southwest Louisiana but by also by the Nation as a whole. •

ANIVERSARY OF THE DITCHLEY FOUNDATION

• Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I am pleased to have the opportunity to pay tribute to the work of the Ditchley Foundation on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of its founding.

Since the foundation's inception in 1958, several of my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle and in both Chambers of the Congress, have taken part in the conferences held at Ditchley Park. This beautiful 18th century country house a few miles outside of Oxford, England, was used as a weekend retreat by Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Averill Harriman, then U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain, during the frequent bombings of London during World War II. Today, Ditchley Park is home to around a dozen conferences each year on topics of relevance to transatlantic relations and international policy concerns in general. This series includes a keynote annual address given by a distinguished lecturer every summer.

This year's lecture gathering was especially noteworthy during this anniversary year. Individuals from a number of fields and countries attended, including our former colleague in the House of Representatives, now president emeritus of New York University, Dr. John Brademas. Dr. Brademas is himself a trustee of the Ditchley Foundation and was for several years chairman of the American Ditchley Foundation.

The current chairman is Rita E. Hauser, president of the Hauser Foundation and a former member of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board. Further, the executive director of American Ditchley is John J. O'Conner, vice chancellor and secretary of the State University of New York.

At the annual lecture on July 11, 2008, chairman of the Ditchley Founda-

tion and former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom John Major made the following introductory remarks, which I would like to share with my colleagues. I ask to have the remarks printed in the RECORD.

The material follows.

"Ditchley is one of the hidden gems of the Transatlantic relationship.

It doesn't feature in Presidential speeches or Prime Ministerial briefing. Mercifully, it is not a plaything of the media; but its role as a clearing house for ideas; a forum for debate and discussion; and a magnet for policymakers gives it a unique status. It is the intellectual expression of 'soft power' and a tribute to the pre-eminence of reason and rational debate.

Of course—you all know that: it is why you are here. All of you know Ditchley, are committed to Ditchley, care about its future and have contributed generously to ensure it. For that—I thank you most warmly; it is a delight to see you all here this evening. My only regret is that many others—who also care for Ditchley and have been enormously generous to it—could not be here to join us. In their absence, I thank them, too, for all their support.

On Ditchley's 50th Anniversary, I think it worthwhile to look at its role.

My father was half-American. Brought up in the United States he drilled into me as a boy the importance of the Transatlantic relationship. His affection for it was emotional—but the economic, political and military case is even stronger. And yet we cannot take this for granted; it is not necessarily a fixed star in the firmament. Geography hugs Britain to her neighbors in Europe, and so does trade.

Trade and real politik turn American eyes to the East: there is no room for complacency. The most successful alliance in history is not immutable. It needs cherishing to keep it in good order.

Ditchley plays a role in this. And why is that? It is, of course, because thoughtful minds—lifting debate from the ephemeral to the eternal—see the importance (and the self-interest if you like) of nurturing Transatlantic ties.

But there is a further reason why Ditchley plays a role—a more prosaic reason. It is because one man saw the importance of the subject and had the vision to establish Ditchley in order to do something about it. That man was David Wills. Today, we remember and honour his vision, his commitment and his generosity. He saw the need—forgive the unintended pun—and he willed the means. David Wills is the Father of Ditchley and the effect of his invisible hand is evident in the continuing and instinctive relationship of trust that we take for granted across the Atlantic.

He chose wisely, too, in entrusting his legacy to Lady Wills and Catherine Wills. No one could have cared for Ditchley more, and their generosity has always been outstanding. I don't simply mean generosity in material terms—though certainly that, for the Wills family were by far the largest contributors to our recent fundraising campaign—but also their personal commitment in time and involvement. They are the living embodiment of Ditchley. I believe they can be satisfied that their actions have helped bind the ties that keep us safe and prosperous.

Following Sir John's remarks, the annual lecture was delivered by an eminent British scholar and scientist, Professor Martin Rees, a member of the House of Lords. President of the Royal Society, Lord Rees of Ludlow is